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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 NEW DELHI 000621

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/24/2015

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [IN](#) [NP](#) [PK](#)

SUBJECT: INDIA WELCOMES MORE CONTACT BETWEEN KASHMIRIS

REF: 04 KATHMANDU 2464

Classified By: DCM Robert O. Blake, Jr. Reasons 1.4 (B,D).

11. (C) Summary: The Pugwash-sponsored conference on Kashmir held in Kathmandu last December has reinforced growing GOI receptivity towards
12. (C) Academic and policy conferences on Kashmir tend to be of limited value for several reasons: 1) usually sponsored by a clearly pro-Indian Unqualified Success

13. (C) Following the December 11-14 seminar, our conversations with a number of the participants (as a supplement to Kathmandu's timely and Separatists

14. (C) Moderate All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) leaders were uniformly positive about the event, praising the organizers in particular
15. (C) The Hurriyat's Prof. AG Bhat was struck by the fact that the Indian authorities had allowed him to travel without an Indian passport
16. (C) Representing pro-independence views, "Kashmir Times" editor Ved Bhasin called the seminar "a meeting of minds." Discussion was of Hardline pro-Pak activist SAS Geelani's did not attend, although he was approached.
Non-Official Indians

16. (C) Former Indian High Commissioner in Pakistan G Parthasarathy highlighted the unusual mix of Kashmiris from both sides of the LOC, who
GOI Positive

17. (C) The GOI has also been unusually positive about this event, not because it was "pro-Indian" (it was not), but because senior officials
Comment

18. (C) The Pugwash meeting was only a seminar, but it had one important consequence: it reinforced evolving GOI attitudes on the utility of
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